Roxbury, May 18, 1874.

Dear Mrs. McKim:

You will not doubt that I bear in constant remembrance the precarious state of health of your beloved husband, to whom I have been attached for so many years by ties stronger than those of merely blood relationship. A letter received by William from Wendell changes to serious apprehension the hope excited a few days ago, when ~~he~~ Mr. McKim seemed to be decidedly better; and again we must be preparing ourselves for the worst. Dear wife and I, and our children near us, appreciate with lively sensibility your trying situation, and wish we could largely share the burden of your anxiety, grief, and exhausting ministration. I only wait to be assured that I shall not incommode you by my coming, and that in some way my presence may prove serviceable, to be with you very speedily; for I can now leave my home,

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feeling sure that my dear wife will receive all possible care and attention at the hands of our beloved daughter. There may be good reasons why my visit had better be deferred for the present. These it will be unnecessary to specify, if they exist; only understand that I shall aim to keep myself in readiness to comply with your wishes promptly, whenever communicated.

If the prospect of recovery seems to be hopeless, both to your husband and the attending physician, I should like to know what are his thoughts and feelings concerning that inevitable change, which in process of time comes to all; and yet I would not, on any account, tax your time or strength to write me even a brief letter on the subject. I shall ultimately get all the particulars. I have no reason to doubt that he regards the event as in itself a merciful provision — an exchange of situation vastly for the better, when the mortal body ceases to be incapable of further usefulness. If he precede us, it will not be long, in the course of nature, before we shall follow him, and the pangs of separation will be forgotten in the joys of a blessed re-union. Reviewing his life, so unselfishly devoted to the succoring of the perishing and the lost, he may say without boasting, but modestly and truthfully, "I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith" — and he may confidently leave the matter of his crowning with Him who never fails to reward the service done to his suffering "little ones." Tell him that the arms of my affection are around him; that I hold him closely to my heart; that I feel certain no mortal change can possibly separate our spirits; and that in the future life I trust to be near and with him, faithfully meeting its responsibilities and discharging all its duties, and also enjoying the blessings it has in store.

Yours with the tenderest regards,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

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